

*File Copy***ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET**

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<b>SUBJECT: (Optional)</b> Monthly Report -- Nicosia Bureau				
<b>FROM:</b> Chief, Operations Group		<b>EXTENSION</b>  	<b>NO.</b>  	
			<b>DATE</b> January 1988	
<b>TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)</b>	<b>DATE</b>		<b>OFFICER'S INITIALS</b>	<b>COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)</b>
	RECEIVED	FORWARDED		
1. C/MOD				
2.				
3. C/ESG				
4.				
5. C/FED				
6.				
7. C/ADD				
8.				
9. C/HED				
10.				
11. C/Computer Operations				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15. Retain/Destroy				

FBIS-4803-88  
8 February 88

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service  
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group  
SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Nicosia Bureau -- January 1988

## I. GENERAL

January ended with optimism that the final accounting of the contract for our new bureau may be near. Two meetings during the month with the Architect and the Quantity Surveyor helped remove some contractual misunderstandings between the Client and the Architect. The Architect pledged renewed vigor to ensure that the Contractor's claim for an extension of time on the contract was supported by site records and other documents and that our interests would be fully protected. To the frustration of all, a months-long delay in completing the analysis of the Contractor's claim has been the Contractor's reluctance (or inability) to respond quickly and fully to requests for documentation to support his claim. As apparent to all from the beginning, the claim for an extension of time was overstated and exaggerated so it may be that our patience and willingness to wait the Contractor out will end soon with a final settlement satisfactory to both sides.

Interference problems still hamper certain frequencies in our C-Band satellite monitoring. Special equipment fabricated by the original Contractors has failed to solve the problem. FED deputy chief [ ] was at the bureau in mid-month when the equipment was installed and took back to Headquarters full particulars on why it didn't work. In the meantime, the bureau will continue to work around the problem to try to get the most out of the dish. Some coverage options/scenarios have been suggested to Headquarters but no decisions have been made.

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## II. OPERATIONS

### A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. A strike by employees of the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation disrupted radio and television programming throughout the month. The strike started on 4 January, with Nicosia radio able to broadcast only music for the whole day. The television was hit next, kept off the air except for brief daily announcements for 16 days, starting on 7 January. The radio workers joined in again on the 12th and carried only music for 10 days. Then on 22 and 23 January, the radio and television both resumed carrying a limited schedule of daily presidential election campaign programs. The strike was finally resolved and programming returned to normal on 30 January.

2. During Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's tour of Middle East countries early in the month, London Bureau requested that we backstop Saudi television on 9 January for reports on his visit to Riyadh in case the timing of BBC coverage of Soviet press facsimile from satellite might interfere with their planned coverage of Saudi television.

In the end they did ask us to process on merit from our backstop, but the effort yielded no items. We observed the Saudi television First Program go off the air on the satellite beam just before the main newscast. Although we were able to switch to coverage of the Saudi television Second Program English-language newscast, it carried only reports already covered earlier by London.

3. In response to a BBC request, Nicosia compared Amman Bureau's reports on the newly active clandestine Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio with the broadcast content of the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio monitored by Nicosia. The bureau's report on the comparison, which elicited a message of thanks from MOD, indicated that the new radio has little in common with the Voice of Palestine or any of the mainstream PLO radios. Later Nicosia arranged to process samples of Hebrew announcements carried by Al-Quds radio recorded and mailed by Amman Bureau. The Al-Quds radio was subject of a Wire Service/MOD Radio Behavior Report and was discussed in an Analysis Group Trends during the month.

4. Cairo radio's 0205 GMT press review was placed on regular coverage to replace the 0515 GMT press review, which Cairo discontinued at the beginning of the new year. The new coverage not only comes earlier in the day but once again provides news headlines, which had been dropped from the 0515 GMT program's format three months before. It had been carrying only quotes from the editorials.

5. The Turkish Section responded to two priority requests from Headquarters consumers for items from the Turkish press. The first was for a MİLLİYET story on reaction to NATO's long-range military goals, and the second a HURRIYET column on NATO's "discriminate deterrence" policy.

6. Upon receipt of a London Bureau item from Belgrade TANJUG citing a report in a Greek paper that Greek Prime Minister Papandreu had announced his intention to retire from politics, the bureau obtained a copy of the edition of Athens TO VIMA TIS KIRIAKIS, which is not on regular coverage. We processed excerpts of a Papandreu interview, in which he pledged to withdraw from politics "when I have completed my contribution and duty to my homeland."

7. The duty editor responded to a request by the Embassy Regional Security Officer on 10 January, providing information from Cyprus press reports on explosions in the Limassol area. The reports indicated the explosions were of a "personal" nature and had no political connotations. At the Embassy's request, the duty editors on 29 and 30 January also kept the RSO apprised of local news reports on the sentencing of two terrorists convicted of attacking two British subjects on Cyprus in April 1987.

#### B. Technical

1. FED Deputy Chief [ ] and S/T Research contractor [ ] arrived in the second week of January to install equipment which it was hoped would eliminate local interference problems in the ROSET system. Phase shift equipment and notch filters were tested, but had little effect on the reception problems. The notch filters are to be tested further in a waterproof installation, and the phase shift equipment is being left here in storage until it is needed elsewhere. STAT SIAI

2. The deputy chief of FED, the bureau engineer, senior technician, and two CYTA officials visited the Pissouri remote site to inspect equipment prior to the onset of the winter season. All equipment appeared to be in good condition.

3. The bureau engineering notebook was forwarded to FED in late January.

4. Bach 2.0 was installed in the Teletype Section computers and is working satisfactorily. It eliminates some problems teletypists had noted in Bach 1.3B. Messages reporting some remaining problems with Bach and the LSL data base were filed to Headquarters.

### III. ADMINISTRATION

#### A. Personnel

1. Bureau Chief [ ] and family returned from R&R in the United States on 6 January. STAT

2. Senior Editor [ ] returned from R&R in the United States on 8 January. STAT

### IV. VISITS

1. TDY Trainee Editors [ ] arrived on 8 January. STAT

2. Deputy Chief of FED [ ] and S/T Research contractor [ ] visited the bureau 10-14 January. STAT  
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[ ]  
Nicosia Bureau

ATTACHMENT: Production Report